

Nobusuke KISHI
(Phonetic: keeshee)

JAPAN

*Former Prime Minister
(1957-60)*

Although he retired from the Diet in 1979, Nobusuke Kishi is still influential in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. He played a role in the party deliberations that led to the election of Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in November 1982, and he is generally supportive of Nakasone's foreign policy. According to US Embassy officials in Tokyo, Kishi is a fervent anti-Communist and strongly favors strengthening Japan's defense forces. They say he believes that friendship between the United States and Japan is essential to world peace. He is favorably disposed toward both the Republic of Korea and Taiwan and was reluctant to see Japan reestablish relations with China in the mid-1970s. (C)



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Kishi has an outstanding mind, keen political insight, and a forceful personality, say the aforementioned Embassy officials. He was a Cabinet minister during World War II and was imprisoned for three years after the war as a suspected war criminal. He became Prime Minister in 1957 on a platform of US-Japanese friendship. He was forced to resign in 1960 after riots occurred over ratification of the US-Japanese Security Treaty. (C)

Kishi comes from a prominent political family. His younger brother, the late Eisaku Sato, was Prime Minister from 1964 until 1972. Kishi's daughter is married to Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe. Kishi likes to play golf and is interested in deep-sea fishing. He speaks limited English. Kishi has been a widower since 1980. He will be 87 on 13 November. (U)

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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